

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/696,882

Examiner

Le Nguyen

Applicant(s)

WANDERSLEVEN ET AL.

Art Unit

2174

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to an amendment filed 4/15/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-13, 15 and 20-22.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 03 June 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Kristine Kincaid
KRISTINE KINCAID
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-13, 15 and 20-22 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance.

The present invention is directed to a GUI comprising presenting a non-modal dialog box within the workspace when a predetermined icon is chosen, providing a preference option that, when enabled by a user, operates to hide the non-modal box when a cursor moves off a frame of the dialog box to maximize the amount of available workspace on the computer screen for displaying work and providing a hot-spot for restoring the non-modal dialog box when the cursor moves over the hot-spot.

Each independent claim identifies the uniquely distinct features of the GUI to further comprise "a hot-spot for restoring the non-modal dialog box when the cursor moves over the hot-spot, wherein the hot-spot is re-locatable by a user to any location on the workspace".

The closest prior art, Watson and MS Excel when combined, shows a similar system that also provides a GUI workspace comprising presenting a non-modal dialog box within the workspace when a predetermined icon is chosen and providing a preference option that, when enabled by a user, operates to hide the non-modal box when a cursor moves off a frame of the dialog box as well as providing a hot-spot for restoring the non-modal dialog box when the cursor moves over the hot-spot. However, the prior art still fails to anticipate or render the above underlined limitations obvious.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

The program of claim ~~20~~ 15, wherein a preference option properties dialog box including at least one customizable feature is provided.

The program of claim ~~21~~ 16, wherein the customizable features include at least one of a choice of a large or small preference option box, a choice of automatically positioning a tool settings dialog, a new tool delay time, and a hide dialog delay time.

Inquires

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Lê whose telephone number is (703) 305-7601. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 5:30 am to 2:00 pm (EST).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine Kincaid, can be reached on (703) 308-0640.

The fax numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are as follows:

(703) 872-9306 [Official Communication]

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

LVN

Patent Examiner

June 22, 2004

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